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# Association for Gravestone Studies e-Newsletter

**Issue 28**  
**August 2005**

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From the Office:

Reminder: We are compiling information about state-wide cemetery surveys and preservation planning (see Bob Drinkwater's From the President column in the Spring 2005 *Quarterly*). We are planning to print updates and reports in future *Quarterlies*. Please let us know what's going on in your state!

The AGS Fall Cemetery Tour will be in Belchertown, Massachusetts on October 1, 2005. Meet at the South Cemetery on Route 181 at 10:30 am. We'll also visit one or more local cemeteries after lunch. We'll be talking about local folks and local carvers including Samuel Daugherty, Joseph & Elijah Sikes, Martin Woods, and Moses Goodale.

Markers News: The subject index for *Markers* has been updated through volume XXII and is available as a PDF file on the [AGS website](#).

Cemetery Tour: Gardner, Massachusetts

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On September 17 at 3:30 p.m. Tom and Brenda Malloy will conduct a tour of the Old Burying Ground in Gardner, Massachusetts. The cemetery is located on Green Street in back of the First Congregational Church. Within the cemetery are markers for many of the city's first settlers and 39 Revolutionary War soldiers. There is also a restored first minister's table stone and a stone with a murder epitaph. The cemetery tour is open to the public and comes at the conclusion of a nine home house tour sponsored by The Gardner Museum. For more information go to [www.thegardnermuseum.com](http://www.thegardnermuseum.com) and click on

"calendar of events."

**Dedication and Open House: Old Burying Ground, Westfield, Massachusetts**

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There will be a dedication of the new front entrance at the Old Burying Ground in Westfield, Massachusetts on September 18th, at 1 pm. The gate was recently restored. There will be an open house at Burying Ground afterwards. The Old Burying Ground is located on Mechanic Street, off of Route 10. The rain date is September 25th. The website linked below has photos and information about the Burying Ground.

[Old Burying Ground](#)

Walking Tour, Maple Grove Cemetery, Kew Gardens, New York

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"Spirits Alive!" A special walking tour with The Richmond Hill Historical Society at Maple Grove Cemetery. On Saturday September 17, at 2 pm this extraordinary interactive walking tour will take place at Maple Grove (rain date September 18th).

Actors will be dressed in period costumes and stand near the graves of notable persons from the cemetery's historical monumental section. The characters portrayed will be the likes of Don Marquis, the illustrious author, The Bluebird of Mulberry Bend, a bad girl who found the loving hand of God, Elsie Dewolfe, illustrious actress and author, Mr. George W. Johnson, the first African American to record a song, plus many other historical figures that reach back 100 years ago. There will be stories of musicians, magicians, artists, and local residents that will come alive by the reenactment of the actors. A guide will take you through the cemetery. The stories are both interesting and touching.

Admission is \$5, Children under 12 are admitted free. The cemetery is easily accessible-located at the end of Lefferts Boulevard and Kew Gardens Road in Kew Gardens. The Union Turnpike Station is just a few blocks away, where the E and the F train stop. Stay on the front of the train. For further info please call (718) 847-6070.

There will be an article about the May 2005 walking tour at Maple Grove in the Summer 2005 AGS *Quarterly* .

[About Maple Grove Cemetery](#)

**September Tours: Woodlawn Cemetery, Bronx, New York**

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- Sept. 10, 17, & 24: "A Walk Through Woodlawn: A General Overview." Meet at 2 pm at Jerome Gate.
- Sept. 11: "New York's Finest and Bravest – Policemen and Firemen at Rest." Meet at 2 pm at Webster Gate. Visit the memorials to those who served the city and citizens of New York.
- Sept. 18: "Jazz Greats of Woodlawn." Meet at 2 p.m at Jerome Gate. Duke Ellington, Illinois Jacquet, King Oliver, Lionel Hampton, WC Handy, Coleman Hawkins & Miles Davis.
- Sept. 25: "Mine Your Own Business – Mining Moguls and Millionaires" Meet at 2 pm at Webster Gate. Historian Rich Sauers leads this tour to the resting places of William Dodge, Jerome Wheeler, and those who made money from copper, silver and gold.

Walking Tour Admission: Adults \$10, Seniors (65 and over) \$7, Students \$5, children 6 and under are free. Children under 18 must be with an adult. Friends of the Woodlawn Cemetery are admitted free. Reservations are recommended (call 718-920- 1470) as tours are limited to 30 participants. Tours last 2 hours and involve walking about 1.5 miles.

[The Woodlawn Cemetery](#)

Tour and Event: Albany Rural Cemetery, Menands, New York

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**Hudson River Valley Ramble**, September 17, 10 am. A ramble through Albany Rural Cemetery's wooded ravines with waterfalls, past various gravesites and monuments of historic and architectural interest, and by several of the architecturally significant 19th century buildings still in use. Tours meet at the Cemetery Chapel. The tour is \$5. Reservations are requested. There also will be horse-drawn carriage tours for \$10. Reservations are required by 9/14.

*Save the Date:* Civil War Heritage Day, October 1, 10 am-3 pm. This all day event will feature Civil War Tours, presentations, and performances. More about event will be in the September e-newsletter.

[Albany Rural Cemetery](#)

**Tour and Event: Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

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September 11, 2 pm "Dead White Republicans at Laurel Hill."

Save the Date: Gravedigger's Ball at Laurel Hill Cemetery. October 22, 7 pm to midnight. A black-tie dinner-dance benefit held in a heated tent on the grounds.

[Laurel Hill Cemetery](#)

Event: Mount Hope Cemetery, Rochester, New York

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Help celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery (1980-2005) by attending a gala Victorian Picnic, September 17, from 10 am to 4 pm. Events include tours, an exhibit of cemetery photos by Frank Gillespie, displays, a parade, and lunch on the great lawn by the 1875 Florentine fountain. Bring your own picnic lunch or order a box lunch. The event is free.

For a schedule, details, and a lunch order form, please visit [the Friends of Mount Hope website](#).

**Touring the Tombstones: Charleston, South Carolina**

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A Walking Tour of Downtown Graveyards. Friday, October 14th, 21st or 28th, 2005. Your tour guide is Ruth Miller. Local graveyards are art galleries harboring stories, literature and legends. Join a stroll through colonial and antebellum cemeteries. Discover this unique portrait of the past found in our old graveyards. Offered to the general public on three dates only, at the special rate of \$18 per person. Offered any time of the year as a private tour by special arrangement.

For more information, please click on the link below, or contact: (843) 766-2080, tours@charlestonstrolls.com.

[Touring the Tombstones](#)

September Tour: Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York

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Saturday, September 10, at 1:00 p.m. "Battle Hill and Back." Featuring Leonard Bernstein, Fannie the Dog, Minerva, the recently-restored Civil War Soldiers' Monument, the highest point in Brooklyn, the bronze Beard Bear, the Drummer Boy, and much more.

The tour is led by Jeff Richman. Historic Fund tours are \$10 per person (\$5 for Historic Fund members) unless otherwise indicated and will last about 2 ½ hours. Some walking up and down hills is involved. In case of bad weather, tours will be canceled; please call Jeff Richman at (631) 549-4891 if the weather is threatening. For questions, comments, to arrange organizational or group tours, or to get on our mailing list, please email us at [jeffrichman@green-wood.com](mailto:jeffrichman@green-wood.com). All tours meet at the main gates of The Green-Wood Cemetery, inside the 25th Street and Fifth Avenue entrance, Brooklyn. By subway, take the R train to 25th Street, then walk one block up the hill. If you drive to the cemetery, you can park for free inside.

[Green-Wood Cemetery](#)

**Tour: Old Cambridge Burying Ground, Cambridge, Massachusetts**

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September 3, 2005, 12:30 p.m. Walking tour in Harvard Square. "Scholars, Soldiers, and Stones: The Old Cambridge Burying Ground." Early stone carvers made stones for Harvard Presidents and black servants alike; carving styles, Cambridge history and the lives of women and children are discussed. The tour lasts an hour and is free. The tour is offered by Mistress Elizabeth de la Rue, a gravestone researcher and an 18th c. living history character who abides in 1773 and welcomes your attendance! She also is available to do private tours for visitors, and school and library visitations of Boston's Freedom Trail churches and burying grounds. Her Saturday tour may be extended to more Saturdays in September. Please contact her at: ihsdlrue@bu.edu for more information.

Seeking Advice About Getting a Book Published

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This question comes from Linda Chaffee: I am seeking information on how to publish, and find a potential publisher for a book on the Westerly, RI, granite & stone carving industry of the 1850s-1920s. The book is being compiled with historical overview, as well as details of quarrying, sculpting, cutting, and setting, and includes many descriptive period photographs. I am a descendent of the founding member and stonecutters of the Smith Granite Company, producers of many of the better known memorials at Gettysburg and buildings throughout the region. I am doing this as a labor of love to preserve family history, as well as to document the granite industry which flourished in southwestern RI at the time. The book is about 3/4 compiled. I don't know what comes next or how to get it published. Any suggestions will be gratefully accepted! Please contact Linda at lchaffee@cox.net.

**Query: Videos about Rural Cemeteries**

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This query is from Janet Seapker, president of President of Friends of Oakdale, Inc., in Wilmington, North Carolina. She writes: Do you know of any of the old, rural cemeteries that have produced videos about their cemetery? Our Oakdale is going to have one done in recognition of the 150th anniversary and we thought it would be neat to view what others have done. Please respond to Andrea at info@gravestonestudies.org.

Query: Military Cemeteries

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This query is from Tom Snyder. He writes: Apparently, the people in the Navy Cemetery at Great Lakes are segregated by sex. My question is: is/was this some sort of trend or history in the military or civilian cemetery business? Please contact Tom at tlsnyder@pacbell.net.

**Back in Print: Understanding Scottish Graveyards**

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The book *Understanding Scottish Graveyards* by Betty Willsher is back in print! *Understanding Scottish Graveyards* encourages people to take an interest in local graveyards and to value efforts towards their conservation. The three chapter headings suggest its broad scope--Graveyards, Types of Monuments, and Recording and Studying Graveyards. The writing is pithy and includes lively anecdotal material but it is also authoritative. Thirty black and white line drawings and 36 well-captioned photographs accompany explanations of emblems denoting mortality (ie, hour-glass, angel of death, snakes), of immortality (torches, heart, snake, caduceus) and various trades (from coalmasters to millers to fleshers [butchers] to soldiers to ministers to schoolmasters). Chock full of information, the book takes us from the standing stones and cairns of the Neolithic and Bronze ages and the early Christian graves to the range of European traditions that have marked death, church burials and record-keeping. A 10% discount off the \$16.95 list price is offered to members. Format is paperback, 96

pages, 6-1/2 x 7-5/8 inches in format. Orders: toll-free (800) 669-9080, fax (845) 679-4093, email: aschwartz@aschwartzbooks.com. For further information, contact the firm at (845) 679-4024.

New Publication: The Secret Cemetery

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*The Secret Cemetery* by Doris Francis, Leonie Kellaher and Georgina Neophytu is a recently published book takes a behind-the-gates look at what cemeteries mean to the people who visit them.

Burial sites have long been recognized as a way to understand past civilizations. Yet, the meanings of our present day cemeteries have been virtually ignored, even though they reveal much about our cultures. Exploring an extraordinarily diverse range of memorial practice - Greek Orthodox, Muslim, Jewish, Roman Catholic and Anglican, as well as the unchurched - *The Secret Cemetery* is an intriguing study of what these places of death mean to the living. Most of us experience cemeteries at a ritualized moment of loss. What we forget is that these are often places to which we return either as a general space in which to contemplate or as a specific site to be tended. These are also places where different communities can reinforce boundaries and even recreate a sense of homeland. Over time, ritual, artefact and place shape an intensely personal landscape of memory and mourning, a landscape more alive, more actively engaged with than many of the other places we inhabit.

You can order it from the publisher, Palgrave Macmillan (see website link below) or use the order form that will be in the Summer issue of the *AGS Quarterly*. A review of *The Secret Cemetery* will be in an upcoming *AGS Quarterly*.

[Palgrave Macmillan](#)

**New Publication: Living Among Headstones: Life in a Country Cemetery**

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Living Among Headstones: Life in a Country Cemetery, by Shannon Applegate. In 1997, Shannon was bequeathed a small cemetery in western Oregon. The neglected five acres were not only the burial site for generations of her family but also the designated resting ground for many in the nearby, down-on-its-luck logging town. *Living Among Headstones* chronicles the author's experiences as sexton of this sacred land: she finds herself plotting graves, consoling families, and confronting the funeral industry. Filled with humor, singular events, pathos, and unexpected smiles--and written in a meditative tone that is beautifully complemented by dozens of photos scattered throughout the text and by lovely watercolors by the author's sister.

Living Among Headstones can be ordered through amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com and www.mcnallyrobinson.com.

Workshop: Muskogee, Oklahoma

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2005 Cemetery Preservation Workshop: "Cemetery Preservation: Making Good Choices." Friday October 28 and Saturday October 29, 2005, Muskogee Campus Northeastern State University, Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Through a lively mix of slides, demonstrations, hands-on examples, and in the cemetery exercises, you'll learn about the different kinds of cemeteries, the basics of developing a preservation plan, and issues that every cemetery must consider. The workshop will help you determine what monuments need immediate intervention, which monuments you can tackle safely yourself and which ones need a professional conservator. This two-day workshop is intended for caretakers, sextons, genealogists, cemetery superintendents and anyone interested in cemetery restoration and preservation at any experience level. The goal is to provide individuals with the knowledge and skills to determine immediate preservation needs, implement simple strategies, and evaluate conservation proposals. The workshop instructors are Debi Hacker and Michael Trinkley provided by the Chicora Foundation, Columbia, South Carolina.

For more information: Oklahoma Cemetery Preservation Association, Inc., <http://rootsweb.com/~okcps/ocpa.htm> P.O. Box 1933, Muskogee, Oklahoma 74402-1933,

email: OCPAinc@cox.net.

**Workshop: Berlin, Germany**

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September 22- 24 2005: ASCE Annual General Meeting 2005 and Workshop on "The future of the cemetery in the city" in Berlin, The ASCE (Association of Significant Cemeteries in Europe) Annual General Meeting 2005 will be held in Berlin, kindly hosted by the Friends of Suedwestkirchhof Stahnsdorf and the Foundation of Historical Churchyards and Cemeteries Berlin-Brandenburg. The annual meeting will be on Thursday September, 22, followed on Friday the 23rd by a workshop dedicated to the future of cemeteries in the cities. On Saturday the 24th there will be a guided tour to Suedwestkirchhof Stahnsdorf and to some historical cemeteries in Berlin. For more information, visit stiftung-historische-friedhoeefe.de and www.significantcemeteries.net.

AGS Member Website

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AGS members David and Kaye Patterson have launched a new website. They write: The website contains some of our pictures which we will be changing periodically, links to our new 2006 calendar, an essay on Victorian Commemorative Behavior, and a link to our screen saver. We would appreciate any comments or suggestions regarding the site. [Website: Symbols of the Dead: A Study in Stone](#)

**Final Call for Living Children & Grandchildren of Slaves**

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From Sandra Arnold of The American Slave Burial Project: I am currently writing a book called "Living Testimonies," about living children and grandchildren of former slaves. The book will include beautiful portraits of these individuals taken by a world class photographer, as well as detailed accounts of their stories. If you know of any individuals who are a child or grandchild of a former slave and have a great story to tell, please contact me at (212) 694-7901 or sarnold14@nyc.rr.com. [The American Slave Burial Project](#)

Article: Bringing a Cemetery Back to Life

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The link below is to an article from WLTX-TV is about Randolph Cemetery in Columbia, South Carolina. AGS member organization the Chicora Foundation is quoted in the article. [WLTX News](#)

**Article: Adopt-A-Cemetery Program in Rome, Georgia**

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The link below is to an article in the *Rome News-Tribune*, in Rome, Georgia and is about efforts to create an Adopt-A-Cemetery program for the county's cemeteries. [Rome News-Tribune](#)

Article: Missing Gravesite and Marker in Libertyville, Illinois

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The link below is to an article in The *Chicago Tribune*, and is about is about St. Sava Cemetery and a gravesite and marker that they can't locate. You have to register with the *Tribune* to read it, but registration is free. [Chicago Tribune](#)

**Contact Information**


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phone: 413-772-0836
web: <http://www.gravestonestudies.org>

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